

# B

## BICYCLE

A bicycle is a *vehicle* with two wheels propelled by human power. The first bicycle that worked like the bikes we ride today was built in 1839 by Kirkpatrick Macmillan. It was made of wood and had no pedals, *gears* or *brakes*. Kirkpatrick Macmillan could coast his bicycle down hills, but he had to push it back up. On flat ground he had to scoot it with his feet. His bicycle weighed over 50 pounds (nearly 25 kilograms)!



*The first bicycles were made of wood.*



## BRAKES

Brakes are the parts of the bicycle that slow or stop it. Usually, the right hand brake stops the rear wheel and the left hand brake stops the front wheel. To stop your bike, squeeze both brakes smoothly and equally. If you brake too suddenly, you may skid. Practice stopping when the ground is dry. Practice stopping when the ground is wet and slippery. Which way takes longer to come to a complete stop?